



RICHARD J. CODEY  
Acting Governor

**New Jersey Office of the Attorney General**

Division of Consumer Affairs  
New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners  
124 Halsey Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Newark, NJ 07102

SEP 06 2005



PETER C. HARVEY  
Attorney General

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Director

By Certified and Regular Mail

August 11, 2005

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 45014  
Newark, NJ 07101  
(973) 504-6455

Hazel B. Lauron, P.T.  
141 Old Short Hills Road Apt#97  
West Orange, NJ 07052

**Re: Offer of Settlement in Lieu of Filing a Formal Disciplinary Complaint**

Dear Ms. Lauron:

This letter is to advise you that the New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners ( "Board") has had an opportunity to review information concerning the physical therapy treatment you rendered to Eunice Guinn at Precision Care, L.L.C. from February 6, 2004 to May 19, 2004. Specifically, the information reviewed consisted of Ms. Guinn's patient record and your testimony at the investigative inquiry that you attended with your attorney, Elizabeth J. Hampton, Esquire on February 8, 2005. Specifically, the information reviewed included that:

Ms. Guinn first received physical therapy treatment for her lower back pain on February 6, 2004 . According to your testimony and a review of the initial evaluation that you prepared in this case, you determined that the short-term goal for this patient's treatment was to decrease pain by at least 50%, increase range of motion by 25% and to tolerate sitting for at least 30 minutes. The long-term goal for Ms. Guinn's treatment was to return her to her prior level of function which was pain-free.

The patient record indicated that this patient denied having pain on February 11, 2004, after her third physical therapy visit. On February 13, 2004 and February 16, 2004, the patient record again demonstrates that the patient denied having pain. The record further supports that Ms. Guinn continued to have about 20 visits where she received the same treatment despite informing you that she was no longer in any pain.

During the course of the investigative inquiry you admitted that you do not wear a name tag during working hours and that you had no knowledge of the fees charged patients for the physical therapy treatment received at this facility.

Both your testimony and the patient record demonstrated that you failed to indicate any relationship to the goal of sitting tolerance in terms of function in the

progress notes. The patient records failed to contain a discharge summary explaining the reason why this patient ceased coming to the facility for physical therapy. Finally, the patient records failed to reflect that this patient was placed on a home exercise program and the specifics of that program

Upon review of all available information, the Board has preliminarily found that probable cause exists to support a finding that you violated N.J.A.C. 13:39A-3.1(a) & (c)9 and 13 in that you failed to maintain adequate patient records. Specifically you failed to identify factual limitations, failed to provide evidence that the patient was placed on a home exercise program, and failed to include a discharge summary note documenting the reason for the patient's cessation of treatment. The Board also finds that your conduct in continuing to provide the same treatment to the patient over twenty visits without any evidence of progress to the patient is excessive treatment and constitutes professional misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e). Additionally, the Board also finds that your failure to wear a name tag is in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:39A-3.9 and that your lack of knowledge regarding the fees charged at this facility violated N.J.S.A. 13:39A-3.4.

At this juncture, the Board has preliminarily concluded that the above violations are sufficient to warrant the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings against you. Notwithstanding that decision, however, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to settle this matter, and thereby avoid the initiation of disciplinary proceedings, should you consent to:

1. Cease and desist in the future from maintaining complete patient records that indicate all pertinent information of the treatment provided to a patient as required by N.J.A.C. 13:39A-3.1.
2. Cease and desist in the future from failing to wear a name tag at your place of employment as set forth in N.J.S.A. 13:39A-3.6
3. Cease and desist in the future from having actual knowledge of the fees charged by the facility where you engaged in the practice of physical therapy in violation of N.J.S.A. 13:39A-3.4 (a) and (b).
4. Cease and desist in the future from engaging or participating in excessive treatment as evidence by continuing to provide the same treatment for a patient without evidence of progress which action constitutes professional misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).
5. Pay a penalty in the amount of \$3,000.00 consisting of \$1500.00 for violation of record keeping regulation at N.J.A.C. 13:39A-3.1, \$1000.00 for professional misconduct in that you continued to treat the patient without any evidence of progress during the course of treatment in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and \$500.00 for your failure to wear a name tag in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:39A-3.9 Payment shall be remitted in full by certified check or money order to the Board of Physical Therapist Examiners, attention Susan Gartland, Executive Director, P.O. Box 45014, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey 07101
6. Pay costs in the amount of \$292.50 which represents the total amount of the entire investigation as reflected in the certification of Susan Gartland, Executive Director that is attached hereto.

If you are willing to settle this matter on the offered settlement terms, you may do so by signing the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter, and returning it to the Board office. Upon your signature, this letter will be a matter of public record.

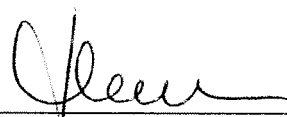
In the event you are unwilling to settle this matter on the offered terms, it will be referred to the Attorney General's office for the initiation of appropriate enforcement action. In such event, you will be afforded an opportunity to defend against the alleged violations. If an evidentiary hearing is deemed warranted the Board will either conduct that hearing at a date and time to be scheduled or refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Law. You are advised, however, that in the event formal charges are filed, the Board may assess civil penalties in an amount greater than that herein offered in settlement should any charges against you be sustained. Additionally, the Board may, if the facts are found to so warrant, enter an order, requiring you to reimburse certain monies and/or requiring you to pay costs incurred by the Board. Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the settlement offer herein, I suggest that you contact Deputy Attorney General, Carmen A. Rodriguez who may be reached at (973)-648-3696.

If you elect to settle this matter presently, you should sign the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and return it to the Board within fifteen (15) days following your receipt of this letter. In the event that the Board receives no response from you within fifteen (15) days, the Board's settlement offer will be withdrawn, and the matter will be referred to the Attorney General's Office for the initiation of appropriate enforcement proceedings.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF  
PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS

By:   
Susan Gartland  
Executive Director

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, Hazel B. Lauron, P.T., hereby acknowledges that I have read and reviewed the settlement proposal set forth in the above letter. I acknowledge the conduct which has been charged. I am aware that, by signing this acknowledgment, I am waiving any rights I have to defend myself against any charges of wrongdoing at an administrative hearing. I am also aware that the action taken against me by the Board herein is a matter of public record, and that this letter is a public document. I hereby agree to pay a penalty in the amount of \$3000.00 plus \$292.50 for a total of \$3,292.50 to be paid upon signing of this acknowledgment).

  
Hazel B. Lauron, P.T.

cc: Elizabeth J. Hampton, E.S.Q.  
Carmen A. Rodriguez, D.A.G.